THE NATIONAL LIBRARY KOLKATA

THE NEWSLETTER

JULY-DECEMBER
2011

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Cover shows Belvedere House, National Library, Alipore, Kolkata 700027.

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Editorial

We are privileged to have been able to welcome the Hon'ble Culture Minister, Kumari Selja, to the library on 6 November 2011. The Hon'ble Minister inspected the restoration work at the Belvedere House and paid a visit to the Rare Books Division.

The second half of 2011 saw major advances in the infrastructure related to information and communication technology. Electronic resources have increased manifold, e-books will be introduced in the next quarter for the first time, and in-house digitization has started along with the outsourced project.

We are happy and grateful for the gift of the diaries of Nirmal Kumar Bose, the pioneer anthropologist and follower of the Mahatma. These, along with the maps and monographs donated by the National Atlas and Thematic Mapping Organization have been the prize acquisitions during this period.

The tribute to B. S. Kesavan, the first librarian of the National Library (i.e. after Independence) in the form of a lecture delivered by Professor A. R. Venkatachalapathy on 16 July 2011 coincides with the 175th anniversary of Calcutta Public Library. We are also proud to have hosted a lecture on 'The Future of Print' by André Schiffrin, distinguished writer in French and publisher, on 8 November 2011.

An especial reason to celebrate the last half of 2011 is the opening of the restored portion of Belvedere House to the public on the occasion of the exhibition 'Treasures of Ancient China'. On 7 September 2011 His Excellency the Governor of West Bengal Sri M. K. Narayanan inaugurated the two-month long show, in the presence of Sri Jawhar Sircar, Secretary, Ministry of Culture, Dr Gautam Sengupta, Director General, Archaeological Survey of India, and the Consul General of China.

On 2 August 2011 Sri Jawhar Sircar, IAS, Secretary to the Government of India, Ministry of Culture, launched the book *Praphullachandra Ray: A Checklist of Major Holdings in Bengali and English (with Edited Texts in Sanskrit) in the National Library, Kolkata* at the Science City. The book derives from an exhibition on the scientist held at the National Library the previous year. We are looking forward to the formal release of *Nameless Recognition: Rabindranath Tagore and Other Indian Literatures*, the proceedings of the national seminar on Tagore held in the library in January 2011.

Swapan Chakravorty
Director General

Major Projects

Enhancement and Upgrade of ICT System

The specifications of UTM device for firewall have been received and these have been sent to NICSI for procuring the device. The library received support manpower until 31 December 2012 comprising one Data Entry Operator and two Programmer Assistants. With the enhanced staff, the library is preparing lending database and serial database as steps toward introducing mechanized circulation and serial control system.

Rapid Conversion of Card Catalogues

Barring a few thousand foreign language records and official documents, all other RCCC records are available in the website of the National Library. The data, along with additional records that were not originally processed manually, are available in the library server.

Retro-conversion of Bibliographic Records

The 2nd meeting of the Review Committee for monitoring Retro-conversion project was held on 18 August, 2011 which reviewed the progress of the work and suggested exploring the possibility of providing incentives to the library staff who could work after office hours for the checking and editing of records. The total number of records in the library server has crossed 3.84 lacs by the end of December. These are available in the LAN of the library. We hope to reach the RFD target of 5.4 lacs by the end of March. In addition, there are already 4 lacs records captured. After validation of these records, the project should reach completion.

Digitization

- The administrative approval and financial sanction of the Ministry of Culture have been obtained in September. The draft agreement between the National Library and the vendor encountered a few problems. The work is expected to start in mid-January 2012.
- At the same time work by in-house staff will start in the first quarter of 2012 on the Jadunath Sarkar Papers. This work will digitize and microfilm documents using the microfilm hybrid camera in the Reprography Division.

Stock Verification

The Stock Verification project has completed its first phase of verifying English books, Science and Technology books, and completed books in Bengali, Hindi, Sanskrit, Tamil, Panjabi, Urdu, Odia and Marathi by the end of September. By the end of December, the total number verified has crossed 10 lacs. The total expenditure for the period was Rs 14,01,692.

Backlog of Unaccessioned and Unprocessed Books

The library received administrative approval and expenditure sanction for Rs 19,64,500 from the Ministry of Culture (No.F.12-37/2011-Lib., dated 20 September, 2011) for accessioning and processing of backlog Indian publications. The finalized tender notice was sent to DAVP on 12 December 2011.

Microfilming of Newspapers

DPS Micrographics Pvt. Ltd. has started microfilming rare and old newspapers. These are being transported from the Esplanade Reading Room and microfilmed in the room earmarked in the new Reprography and Microform Library in Bhasha Bhavan.

Collection Building

New Electronic Resources

- The library has renewed the on-line journal packages, namely, Sage's HSS, Springer's Computer Journals, American Chemical Society, JStor, Project Muse, Emerald (LIS and Knowledge Management).
- The library has collected from publishers catalogues for e-books. These will be placed before the Advisory Committee for Book Selection and Ordering at its meeting on 5 January 2012 so that electronic books may be introduced for the first time in the library in early 2012.

New Books

- Between July and September 2011, the library has procured 1095 pre-selected titles (by domain experts), predominantly on economics and psychology, for which Rs. 68,40,704 has been spent. Another 1400 pre-selected titles were ordered with enlisted vendors on history, ethics, religion and literatures in English. Moreover, about 150 books recommended by Professor Gautam Bhadra, Tagore National Fellow for Cultural Research, and other readers, have also been ordered.
- Around 9785 books in Indian languages including English were collected under the Delivery of Books (and Newspapers) Act during the period. While the receipt of English books increased by 50% in the last quarter (October-December), a fall of 24% in other Indian languages was observed in relation to the corresponding quarter last year. Proactive steps for collecting books under the Act during the Kolkata Book Fair in January-February 2012 and the World Book Fair in Delhi in March 2012 have been planned, and the results will be reported in due course.

Gifts

- On 4 August 2011 National Atlas and Thematic Mapping Organization, under the Ministry of Science and Technology, donated all its publications that are in print to the National Library, in duplicate (one copy for readers in the Main Reading Room) as a rare gesture, under the Delivery of Books Act. The said publications include 57 atlases and 27 monographs and 11 loose maps. It will enhance the collection of government publications of the library.
- The diaries of Nirmal Kumar Bose, anthropologist and follower of Mahatma Gandhi, were handed over to the library on 15 October 2011 at a modest programme held at the late Professor's home at Bagbazar. The papers are spread over 40 years. The event was organized by Sutanuti Boimela Committee, and the gift was facilitated by Sri Abhik Kumar Dey.
- On 8 November 2011, Sri Soumitra Das, journalist and photographer, gifted to the library two folios of typescript of a draft article on art authored by the great sculptor, Meera Mukherjee (1923-98).
- On 30 December 2011, Professor Rebecca Manring of Indiana University, Bloomington, gifted the following books to the library: *Catalogue for the Sukumar Sen (Bardhaman Sahitya Sabha) Manuscript Collection*, compiled by Rebecca J. Manring with Hena Basu (Ann Arbor: Michigan: Association for Asian Studies, 2006); and Rebecca Manring, *The Fading Light of Advaita Acharya: Three Hagiographies* (Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2011).
- Between October and December 2011, 1307 books and documents were received by the Gift and Exchange Division and 465 documents were obtained from foreign organisations and institutions by the Foreign Documents Division.

Conferences and Workshops

B. S. Kesavan Lecture

On 16 July 2011 the National Library organized the B. S. Kesavan Lecture as a tribute to its first librarian. It was delivered by Professor A. R. Venkatachalapathy of Madras Institute of Development Studies. Professor Venkatachalapathy spoke on 'Cultures of Copyright: Authors and Publishers in Colonial India' at 11 a.m. at the Conference Hall, Bhasha Bhavan. The event coincided with the start of the celebration of 175 years of the founding of Calcutta Public Library. Sri Jawhar Sircar, Secretary, Government of India, Ministry of Culture, presided over the event. Professor Mukul Kesavan and Srimati Arundhati Kesavan, and Sri A. R. Bandyopadhyay, Chairperson of the Advisory Board, were also present.

Professor A.R. Venkatachalapthy delivering the B. S. Kesavan Lecture on 16 July 2011 at the Conference Hall, Bhasha Bhavan. Sri Jawhar Sircar, Secretary to the Government of India, Ministry of Culture, Professor Mukul Kesavan, son of B.S. Kesavan and currently member, Advisory Board, and Sri M. N. Nagraj, former Deputy Librarian, are also seen in the picture

Librarians' Day

The National Library in collaboration with the Central Reference Library organized Librarians' Day which was held on 12 August 2011 at the Conference Hall, Bhasha Bhavan. Professor Amitabha Chattopadhyay, former Professor of Library and Information Science, Jadavpur University, spoke on the occasion.

Lecture on Acharya Prafulla Chandra Ray

On 19 August 2011 Dr Soumyajit Roy, Associate Professor of Chemistry at IISER, Kalyani, and Changshu Institute, Jiangsu, China, spoke on Acharya Prafulla Chandra Ray on the occasion of the 150th birth anniversary of the scientist. Professor Shyamal Chakraborty, Head of the Department of Chemistry, University College of Science and Technology, University of Calcutta, presided. The lecture was held at the Conference Hall. A small exhibition of rare books by and on P. C. Ray was held in the space adjacent to the Hall.

Hindi Workshop

A two-day Hindi workshop was organized in the library on 6-7 September 2011. Dr R Ramachandran, PLIO (I) inaugurated the workshop. All senior officers of the library were present in the inaugural session. Dr Hrishikesh Roy, Deputy Director, Tea Board, Kolkata was the Chief Guest. Twenty officials participated in the two-day workshop. 'Official Language and Our Responsibility', 'Grammatical Problems and Their Remedy', 'Hindi Noting, Drafting and Correspondence', 'Official Language Policy: Rules and Act', and 'Translation: A Practical Aspect' were among the topics discussed at the workshop.

Lecture by André Schiffrin

On 8 November 2011 André Schiffrin, distinguished writer in French and publisher, spoke at the Conference Hall on 'The Future of Print'. S. Anand, head of the publishing house Navayana, presided. The event was held in collaboration with Alliance Française du Bengale.

André Schiffrin being felicitated before his speech on 'The Future of Print' at the Conference Hall, Bhasha Bhavan, on 8 November 2011.

Professor Rebecca J. Manring, Associate Professor, Indian and Religious Studies, Indiana University, Bloomington, speaking on the South Asia Microform Project at the Conference Hall, Bhasha Bhavan on 30 December 2011.

Lecture by Rebecca J. Manring

On 30 December 2011 Professor Rebecca J. Manring, Associate Professor, Indian and Religious Studies, Indiana University, Bloomington, spoke informally to scholars and librarians on the South Asia Microform Project and other matters of related interest at the Conference Hall.The library had received a major gift of 46 reels of microfilm positives from the South Asia Microform Collection of the Centre for Research Libraries, University of Chicago, on 13 December 2010. The library is grateful to Professor Manring for facilitating the transfer of the positives. These contain 900 manuscripts of medieval Bengali poetry collected by the scholar Sukumar Sen.

National Library Delegation at the IASLIC Conference

A team led by Sri H. P. Gedam, Principal Library and Information Officer (II), attended the IASLIC conference at the University of Kashmir from 10 to 13 October 2011. Among the delegation members, Srimati Chanchal Gyanchandani, Srimati Vibha Gupta and Sri Hashim Kallungal, Library and Information Assistants, presented papers.

NACLIN Conference 2011

From 15 to 17 November 2011 the NACLIN (National Convention on Knowledge, Libraries and Information Networking) organized by DELNET and the Central Library, Visva Bharati, was held in Santiniketan. The Director General was Chief Guest. He inaugurated the conference exhibition and presented a keynote paper on 17 November entitled 'The Role of National Libraries in Promoting Digital Resources'.

Events in the Children's Library

- The Children's Library organized two events for school children. On 26 August 2011, children from Chetla Boys' School were invited to the Children's Library. Raja Sen's film 'Damu', which won the National Award for best children's film in 1997, was screened for them. The eminent writer for children, Sri Sailen Ghosh, winner of Sangeet Natak Akademi prize, Nehru Fellowship, and the Mouchak award, spoke to the young spectators on the value of reading and libraries.
- On 23 September 2011 a magic show by Sri A. Sarkar was organized for the students of Chetla Girls' High School.

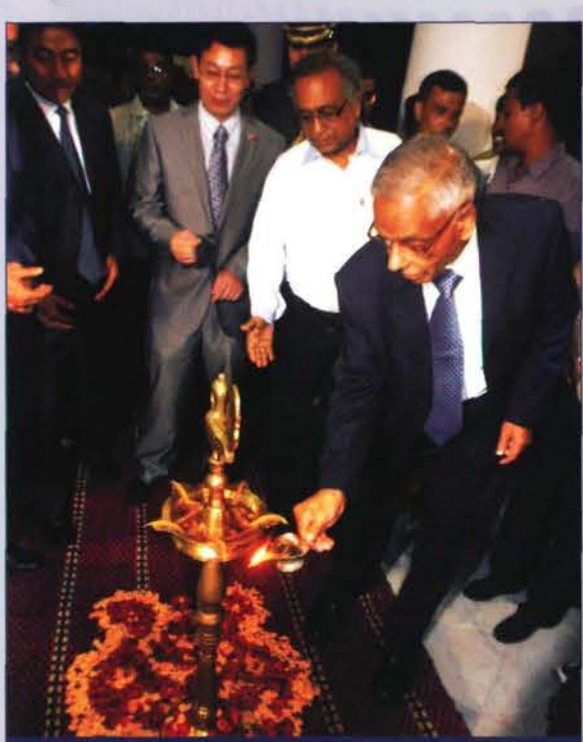
Other Seminars, Workshops etc.

- On 21 July 2011 the Director General attended the meeting of the Working Group on Art and Culture for the 12th Five-Year Plan at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi, and outlined a few ideas for the consideration of the Group.
- On 22 July 2011 Srimati Malabika Ghosh, ALIO (Laboratory), attended a seminar at Victoria Memorial Hall and spoke on 'Bio-deterioration of Archival Material-Preventive and Control'..
- On 30 July 2011 Sri Ashim Mukhopadhyay, ALIO, attended the Seventh Meeting of the Working Group on Digital Libraries at SERC of IISc, Bangalore.
- On Tuesday 20 September 2011 the DG attended a meeting of the Sub Group on Literature, Libraries and Archives for the 12th Five Year Plan, at the Conference Hall of Central Secretariat Library, G Wing, Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi 110115. The meeting was chaired by Sri Rakesh Garg, Additional Secretary to the Government of India, Ministry of Culture.
- On 23 September 2011 the Director General spoke on 'The Future of Education in Bengal' at the Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry.
- On 25 November 2011, the Director General read a paper entitled 'Tagore, Translation, and Music' at the international conference on 'The Literary Universe of Rabindranath Tagore' at the Asiatic Society, Kolkata.
- On 17 December 2011 the Director General delivered the valedictory address at the publishing course conducted by the National Books Trust India and Calcutta University at the Central Library, Calcutta University.
- On 21 December 2011 he read the paper 'The Universal, the National and the Social: Rabindranath and Social Consciousness' at a national conference titled 'Tagore: A Many-Splendoured Personality' organized by Netaji Institute of Asian Studies, Kolkata.

Exhibitions

Treasures of Ancient China

On Friday 7 September 2011 His Excellency the Governor of West Bengal Sri M. K. Narayanan inaugurated the exhibition 'Treasures of Ancient China'. Sri Jawhar Sircar, Secretary, Ministry of Culture, Dr Gautam Sengupta, Director General, Archaeological Survey of India, and the Consul General of China were present. The exhibition held at Belvedere House remained open from 10 a. m. to 5 p. m. till 7 November 2011, and was applauded by the public and the media. It also offered citizens a first glimpse into the restored portion of the Belvedere House.



His Excellency Sri M. K. Narayanan, Governor of West Bengal, inaugurating the 'Treasures of Ancient China' exhibition on 7 September 2011.

One of the artefacts displayed at the 'Treasures of Ancient China' exhibition held at the Belvedere House.

Exhibition on Acharya Praphullachandra Ray

A small exhibition of rare books by and on P. C. Ray was held in the space adjacent to the Hall on 19 August 2011.

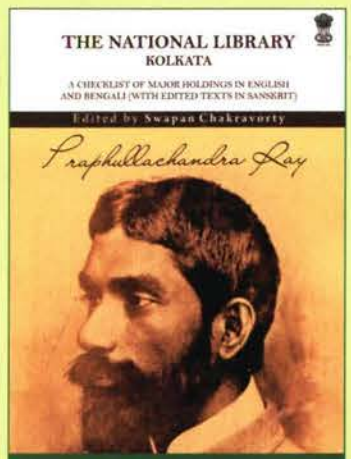
Exhibition of Material related to Rabindranath Tagore in Bhubaneswar

On 20-1 December 2011 a national seminar and exhibition on Rabindranath Tagore was organized by Sahitya Akademi at Bhanja Mandap, Bhubaneswar. The exhibits included digital reproductions of books, photographs, and manuscripts of Tagore and illustrations used in his books. These were contributed by the National Library. The eminent writer Manoj Das inaugurated the exhibition and praised the library for its contribution.

Publications

Praphullachandra Ray: A Checklist of Major Holdings

On 2 August 2011 Sri Jawhar Sircar, IAS, Secretary to the Government of India, Ministry of Culture, launched the book *Praphullachandra Ray: A Checklist of Major Holdings in Bengali and English (with Edited Texts in Sanskrit) in the National Library, Kolkata* edited by Professor Swapan Chakravorty at the Science City. The book has appendices on the Acharya's life and his research papers, and an essay by Dr Biman Nath of the Raman Research Institute. Dr Amit Mitra, Hon'ble Minister of Finance, West Bengal, Dr G. S. Rautela, Director General, National Council of Science Museums, and Sri K. K. Banerjee, Director, Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation, were present.



Cover of *Praphullachandra Ray: A Checklist of Major Holdings in Bengali and English (with Edited Texts in Sanskrit) in the National Library, Kolkata* published by the National Library.

Rabindranath Tagore: Proceedings of the National Seminar

- A national seminar on 'The Impact of Rabindranath Tagore on Other Indian Literatures' was held at the National Library on 20-21 January 2011. The participants included Professor Sabyasachi Bhattacharya, Chairperson, Indian Council of Historical Research, Sri Sumatheendra Raghavendra Nadig, former Chairperson, National Book Trust, Dr Ramkumar Mukhopadhyay, Regional Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, Kolkata; Sri Kishore K Banerjee, Director, Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation, besides Vinod Joshi, Reeta Bhattacharya, Pallabi Deka Bez Baruah, Krishna Chandra Bhuiyan, Vinod Joshi, Biplab Chakravorty, Jetho Lalwani, Soma Bandyopadhyay, Shafe Kidwai, Hiren Alley, Jaswinder Singh, C. N. Ramachandran, S. Krishnamurthy, Akkiraju Ramapathy Rao and R. Sundaram.
- The proceedings of this seminar have been edited into a book titled *Nameless Recognition: Rabindranath Tagore and Other Indian Literatures*. Advance copies of the book will be presented to members of the Advisory Board at its next meeting in January 2012. A formal launch of the book is planned for early February 2012.

Rabindranath Tagore Bibliography

- The bibliography has listed holdings by and on Rabindranath Tagore in English, Bengali and other Indian languages at the National Library. There are around 3500 entries accumulated in the final draft and each entry/book has been checked physically on the shelves in the Stack. Work on the content of the bibliography has been completed.
- It was decided that this bibliography would be published through a public-private partnership.

Newsletter

The *Newsletter* for the period January to June 2011 was published in November 2011 and sent to different National Libraries of the world and to renowned libraries in the country, including university libraries.

Training, HRD and Outreach Programmes

Training on Right to Information Act

Sri B. C. Das, Hindi Officer (CPIO-II), Sri Md. Usman Ghani, ALIO (Urdu), CPIO(I) and Sri Somnath Banerjee, Superintendent, Establishment Section, attended the Trainer Development Programme on Right to Information from 12 September to 16 September 2011 in New Delhi, organized by the Institute of Secretariat Training and Management, Department of Personnel and Training, at the Jawaharlal Nehru University (Old) Campus.

Training on Web 2.0 Technology in Libraries

Sri Sivaprasad Senapati, Assistant Library and Information Officer, and Sri Kalicharan Gauda, Assistant Library and Information Officer, were deputed to attend a training workshop on Web 2.0 technology held at Kathmandu under the aegis of the Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of Nepal, and SAARC Documentation Centre. They were trained in the use of blogs, RSS feeds, wikis and networking sites for libraries. After their return, they have created group e-mail ids for the Advisory Board and the members of the staff. They are collaborating with Dr Soumitra Sarkar, University Librarian, Calcutta University, Dr Souvik Mukherjee, Research Associate, IIT, Delhi, and Dr Arun Chakraborty, Librarian, Bose Institute, on an electronic digest for the larger library community to be hosted by the National Library. The blog entitled *Indian Library Review* will be inaugurated in January 2012 at the next meeting of the Advisory Board.

Gender Sensitization Programme for the Library Staff

On 27 July 2011 a Gender Sensitization Programme for the library staff was conducted by the group Swayam at the auditorium. The spokesperson for Swayam, Srimati Anamitra Mukherjee, made a presentation with visuals, including a film on sexual harassment and avenues of redress.

Training Programmes for North-Eastern States

- The library organized a workshop on 'Computer Application to Academic Libraries in Upper Assam' in collaboration with the Centre for Library and Information Science Studies, Dibrugarh University on 25-29 September 2011 under infrastructure development of libraries in the North-Eastern States.
- In September Assam University, Silchar invited Srimati Malabika Ghosh ALIO (Laboratory) to deliver expert lectures on different issues related to conservation of printed material.
- A seminar on 'Public Library Systems and Services in India' was held in Imphal in collaboration with Manipur University Library.

Eminent Visitors

Visit of the Hon'ble Culture Minister

The Hon'ble Culture Minister Kumari Selja signing the Vistitors' Book at the Rare Books Division on 6 November 2011.

- On 5 November 2011 the Hon'ble Culture Minister Kumari Selja met heads of cultural institutions at Science City Seminar Hall at 5.30 p.m. Sri Jawhar Sircar, IAS, Secretary, Ministry of Culture, accompanied the Minister, and had a separate meeting with the heads at 1.30 p.m. to review budget expenditure, development and 12th Five-Year Plan proposals.
- On 6 November 2011 the Hon'ble Culture Minister Kumari Selja inspected the restoration work at the Belvedere House. The Minister paid a visit to the Rare Books Division. He was accompanied by Dr V. Venu, IAS, Joint Secretary to the Government of India, Ministry of Culture, Dr Gautam Sengupta, Director General, Archaeological Survey of India, and Dr G. S. Rautela, Director General, National Council of Science Museums. The Minister was presented with souvenirs and a commemorative plaque.

Other Distinguished Visitors

- On 8 July 2011 the library hosted Ms Constance Jones, Director, and Sri Dipankar Dasgupta, Bengali Editor, Information and Press, American Centre, Kolkata. The visitors gifted mementos and three books to the library.
- On 11 July 2011 Dr Steven L. Raymar, Associate Professor, School of Journalism, Indiana University and Mr Joseph A. Breen, Transport and Research Board (Retired), The National Academies, USA, visited the library.
- On 18 July 2011 Sri T. C. Raghavan, Indian High Commissioner to Singapore, visited the library and spent some time at the Rare Books Division.
- On 29 July 2011 Dr Jayanti Maitra, Head of Research, National Centre for Documentation and Research, Abu Dhabi, UAE visited the library.
- On 29 August 2011, Sri Kailash M. Patil of RTIN, Nagpur University, visited the library.
- On 2 November 2011, Mr Ibrahim Waheed, Commissioner, Election Commission, Republic of Maldives, visited the library. He is a poet, and was visiting in the capacity of Premchand Fellow of Sahitya Akademi.
- On 21 November 2011 the Australian poet Mr Kelvin Brown and his wife Ms Heather Brown, Assistant Director, Paper and Books, Artlab, Adelaide, visited the library. Mr Brown presented the library two signed copies of his collection of poems entitled *The Collector of Words*, Volume 3. Ms Brown discussed possible areas of co-operation on conservation and security with Artlab, a South Australian government's enterprise.
- On 24 November 2011 the Italian Consul General Mr Joel Melchiori met the Director General in the library and discussed possibilities of collaboration during the upcoming Kolkata Book Fair at which Italy will be the focal country.
- On 29 December 2011 Professor Tim Barringer, Paul Mellon Professor, Department of the History of Art, Yale University, and Mrs Barringer visited the library.

Cultural Programme

On the occasion of the visit of the Hon'ble Culture Minister Kumari Selja, a programme put together by the government cultural organizations in the city, including the National Library. The programme was held at the Mini Auditorium of Science City at 6 p.m. on 5 November 2011. Rituranga, songs of Rabindranath Tagore accompanied by dances choreographed by Guru Thankamani Kutty, was staged.

Other Events

Visit to the Library of Congress Delhi Office in Delhi

On 20 October 2011 the Director General visited the Library of Congress office in Delhi along with Dr P. R. Goswami, Director, Libraries, Ministry of Culture. They held discussions with Mr F. Cannon, Deputy Field Director, Dr A. Chatterjee, Chief Acquisitions, and Sri A. Roy, Supervisor, Microforms, on the possible areas in which the National Library and the Library of Congress might collaborate. Orientation programmes, revival of the microform project, creating microfilms, and exchange of microfilms and digital copies of rare documents were areas identified for future co-operation. The Director General visited the microfilm laboratory and was shown the work being done there.

Meetings with the Director, National Institute for the Visually Handicapped

On 22 October 2011 Sri Ashim Mukhopadhyay, Assistant Library and Information Officer, met Srimati Anuradha Mohit, Director, National Institute for the Visually Handicapped, Dehra Dun, to discuss possibilities of co-operation on a special wing for the visually challenged at the National Library. The meeting took place in Kolkata. This was followed in November in Delhi by another at which the Director General of the National Library was present. The draft of a proposal for a Resource Centre for the Visually Challenged at the National Library was handed to Srimati Mohit, who was keen on active involvement of her institution with the project.

Meeting of the National Selection Committee for the Tagore National Fellowships and Scholarships for Cultural Research

On 23 November 2011 the National Selection Committee for the Tagore National Fellowships and Scholarships for Cultural Research met in Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi. The nominations of the Institution Level Search and Selection Committee were placed before the NSC. The Director General was present. The Institution Level Search and Selection Committee meeting was held earlier on 29 August 2011.

Independence Day

On 15 August 2011 the Director General hoisted the national flag and a parade of the guards was organized. Later sweets were distributed among the children.

Meeting of the Professional Committee

On 22 September 2011 a meeting of the Professional Committee of the National Library took place at the Committee Room.

Vigilance Awareness Week

An oath-taking ceremony was organized on 31 October 2011, the death anniversary of our late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, at the auditorium to observe Vigilance Awareness Week. Officers and members of the staff took the oath of integrity led by the Director General.

6. Retirements

(i) Sri Ohid Rahaman, Labourer

(ii) Sri Asit K. Pyne, Library Clerk

(iii) Srimati Pranati Guha, Library and Information Assistant

(iv) Sri Suresh C. Dutta, Library and Information Assistant

(v) Sri Appana Mardi, Senior Library Assistant

(vi) Sri Ganesh Dom, Safaiwala

(vii) Srimati Swati Bose, Library and Information Assistant

7. Voluntary Retirements

Nil

8. Deaths

Nil

9. Transfers

(i) Sri Rabindranath Bera, Multi-tasking Staff, Reading Room to Establishment Section on 8.7.2011

(ii) Sri Ram Chandra Bansfore, Multi-tasking Staff, Reading Room to Administration (General) Section on 8.7.2011

(iii) Sri Om Prakash Kewat, Multi-tasking Staff, Reading Room to Supplies and Services Section on 8.7.2011

(iv) Sri Supriya Sannigrahi, Library and Information Assistant, Children's Library to Stack Division (Main) on 6.9.2011

10. Relinquishments

Nil

11. Resignations

Nil

Security

- During the period from July to September 2011, the Security Officer was busy with the exhibition entitled 'Treasures of Ancient China' which displayed many objects of high value. Many distinguished personalities such as H.E. the Governor of West Bengal, Secretary Ministry of Culture, visited the library premises during the period. More than 15,000 visitors have visited the exhibition, and praised the security measures.
- Funds have been released for the launching of CCTV in the library premises. Most of the required raw materials have been consigned and received by the Executive Engineer (Electrical) CPWD, Bhasha Bhavan.
- The final order for 7 new Door Frame Metal Detectors has been placed with Reliance Electronics, Nasik, on 2 December 2011.
- Keeping in mind the recent fires in the city, the security measures in the National Library campus have been tightened in the following manner:

a) A notice has been circulated among staff members alerting them to fire hazards and the initial steps in a crisis.

b) Important phone numbers for emergency services have been pasted at all strategic points.

c) Unwanted waste close to fire doors has been cleared.

d) The CPWD has been requested to install a fire hydrant adjacent to the Old Annexe Building.

e) A proposal for a Fire Safety Audit by Sri Tapan Debnath M.I. Fire. E (India). M.I. Fire (UK) Adv. Diploma / NESC (Gold Medal), B. SE. Deputy Commandant, CISF (Retd.), Ex-Senior Consultant (Security and Fire), CISF, and Managing Director, 3G Fire Protection and Security, who had conducted a security training workshop in the library in July, is under consideration.

- Kolkata Police Special Task Force Department has handed a letter of appreciation to the Security Officer, Sri Shubhajit Chakraborty, for the co-operation extended by him and the library when they visited National Library in June 2011.

B. S. Kesavan Lecture held on16 July, 2011

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Librarian's Day Celebrated on 12th August 2011

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150th Birth Anniversary of Acharya Prafulla Chandra Ray celebrated on 19th August, 2011

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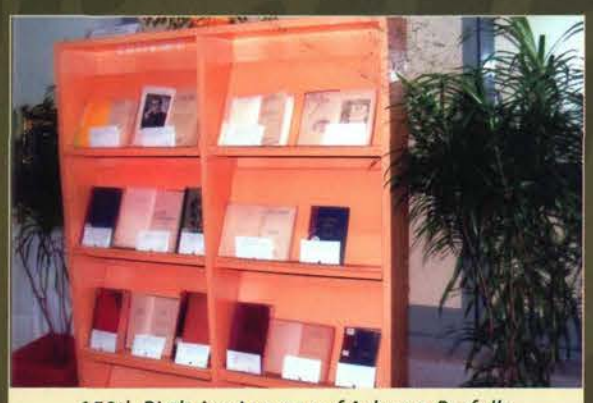

150th Birth Anniversary of Acharya Prafulla Chandra Ray celebrated on 19th August, 2011

Treasures of Ancient China exhibition held at the Belvedere House

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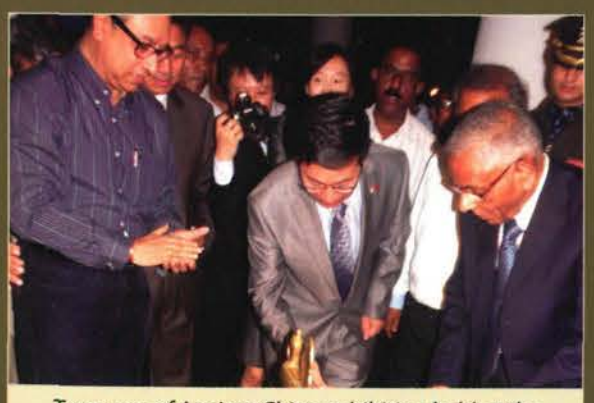

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The Hon'ble Culture Minister Kumari Selja visit to the National Library on 6th November, 2011

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